

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

March 24, 2000 LB 1253, 1436A

pages 1284-1285.) The vote is 45 ayes, 0 nays, 2 present and not voting, 2 excused and not voting, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: The bill is passed with the emergency clause attached. Next item.

ASSISTANT CLERK: Mr. President, the first motion I have is from Senator Landis. He would move to return the bill, LB 1253, for a specific amendment. (AM3005, Legislative Journal page 1215.)

PRESIDENT MAURSTAD: Senator Landis, you're recognized to open.

SENATOR LANDIS: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the Legislature. This is done with Senator Crosby's acceptance. This is not over her objection. We had another related issue come up in the Insurance Committee relatively late in the session, and this is our opportunity to append it to a germane and relevant section of law which has to do with, in this case, dental coverage or hospitalization coverage when you go to the hospital because of a dental problem. The question that I'm going to bring to you now is, what do you do with adopted children that are adopted and whose parents have insurance? We had a bill in committee in which it was said adopted children will be treated just like biological children, essentially, and we took testimony on the bill and nobody in...the testifiers objected but they also said we treat them the same. This is Mutual of Omaha, this is Blue Cross-Blue Shield, this is all of the insurance groups. So at the time, the committee said, well, look, it's kind of slashing your way through an open door to pass a law where you've already got exactly the practice you want so, in fact, it languished in the committee until the very last meeting that we had, when we discovered that there were two insurance companies in the state that do treat adopted children different than biological children. One of them is Conseco and the other one is American Community, and they both have essentially the same rule, and that is that the adopted child is not covered for 15 days, and then they make a decision to accept the child under existing terms of the insurance plan or accept with a rider for preexisting conditions or to accept at a higher rate or to reject. And the committee felt an overwhelming response that biological children and adopted children should be treated exactly the same as far as the law should be concerned.